



NEWS FROM SANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 23, 2014

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THE SANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES YOU TO PRACTICE SAFETY WHEN USING FIREWORKS THIS JULY 4TH

Did you know in a 2013 report released by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 89% of fireworks related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms involved fireworks that Federal regulations permit consumers to use.

Each year fireworks are directly involved in millions of dollars in damage to vehicles, structures, and other fires. Fireworks also cause nearly 10,000 injuries each year. One statistic that rarely changes over the years is that children and young adults suffer a large share of the injuries reported:

- 44% of the reported injuries from consumer pyrotechnics were children under the age of 19.
- 39% of the reported injuries were identified in the 20-24 and 25-44 age groups.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Do not purchase illegal fireworks and read all safety warnings. Purchase only those approved by the State Fire Marshal.
- Only adults (18 years of age and older) should be permitted to light fireworks.
- Sparklers are a common fireworks related injury among children. Their temperature can reach over 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit causing severe burns to the skin and ignite clothing. Only allow sparklers to be handled by those over 12 years of age.
- If you choose to use "legal" fireworks, do so with safety in mind at all times and keep safe distances from homes, cars, and other objects.
- If using fireworks on the sidewalk and street area, assign a person to observe for vehicle traffic and safety.
- Closely supervise children during use of fireworks. Do not allow children to set off fireworks or be in close distance.
- If the fireworks purchased are not performing properly, discontinue use immediately. Stay clear of a "dud" for at least 10 minutes.
- Keep a water hose nearby in case of igniting a grass fire.
- Do not ignite fireworks in your hand. All fireworks should be ignited on the ground.
- Consider attending a professional fireworks show such as Star Spangled Sanford the fourth of July Celebration in downtown Sanford rather than purchasing your own fireworks.

No fireworks will be allowed in the Sanford event area during the [Star Spangled Sanford Event](#). If fireworks are discovered, fire and police officials will confiscate the fireworks. Please visit <http://www.iafc.org/Operations/LegacyArticleDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=3448> for more fireworks safety material. For more information contact the City of Sanford Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at 407.688.5052 or robles@sanfordfl.gov

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